

## **Faith-Based Prevention**

### **Brief Program Description**

The Health Advisory Council developed the Jackson County Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Partnership Concept. The group consists of six African-American churches that had successfully implemented health promotions projects funded by the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Minority Health, American Heart Association, and the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services. The founding group was concerned and wanted their "grands and great-grands" to grow up in a drug free environment—therefore they recruited other minority organizations (Zeta Phi Beta, Minority Business Community, Minority Beauticians, New Golden Keys) and majority providers of drug, health, and educational services (Sheriff, School Board, Public Health Unit, and the County Commission) to participate in the new partnership.

The objectives included the idea that at the end of the five year funding period the Jackson County Alcohol and other Drug Prevention Partnership will be an ongoing and functional process for identifying alcohol and other drug problems; determining health priorities and necessary resources; designing a formal prevention plan; and selecting, implementing and evaluating appropriate intervention strategies. At the conclusion of the five year funded project, the Health Advisory Council will have influenced County Health Policy (educational, medical, and social service), as well as some health and drug behavioral practices of African-American, Jackson County residents. Health promotion interventions will be implemented at church sites, as a part of community awareness activities, and within the selected community partners systems.

### **Program Strategies**

Prevention activities included: (1) coordinated monthly public relations and media campaigns; (2) youth based community awareness events; (3) coordinated adult activities; (4) high risk population awareness and education program conducted by the Health Unit; (5) health and drug education school program; (6) business and industry seminars; (7) beauty shop awareness and prevention campaigns; and (8) church based health promotion activities.

### **Population Focus**

This partnership focused on African-American, Jackson County residents.

### **Suitable Settings**

This partnership can be implemented in many community settings.

## **Required Resources**

A variety of manuals are available which detail steps necessary to develop a community partnership. These include *The Partnership Training Manual* and *How to Develop a Church-Based Program for the Prevention of Drug and Alcohol Abuse: A Work Manual*.

## **Implementation Timeline**

The partnership has existed for several years and is ongoing.

## **Outcomes**

Evaluations of this partnership revealed significant accomplishments that include—

- Developing and evaluating a coordinated approach to prevention planning in a rural area with organizations utilizing the locality development approach;
- Behavioral lifestyle changes via the church prevention programs stressing the target populations' culture and value systems that reinforced school activities;
- "Old South" cultural practices allowed the African-American community to improve the quality of life for all Jackson County residents.

## **Contact Information**

For indepth information on this program, please use the contact listed below.

### **Program Developer**

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